

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 WARSAW 02604 291800Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 FRB-03 SS-15 NSC-05 USIA-06
TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /056 W
-----025007 300621Z /20
R 291447Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4154

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE WARSAW 2604

EO 11652N/A
TAGS: EFIN SCUL OVIP (BIEN, WITOLD)
SUBJ: PROPOSED INVITATION TO NATIONAL BANK PRESIDENT BIEN

1. EMBASSY OFFICERS RECENTLY CALLED ON DR. WITOLD BIEN, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL BANK OF POLAND, TO DISCUSS OUR INTEREST IN ARRANGING A VISIT FOR HIM TO THE US. AN INVITATION HAD BEEN EXTENDED TO BIEN IN NOVEMBER, 1977, UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL VISITORS PROGRAM.

2. BIEN SAID HE HAD CONSULTED WITH FINANCE MINISTER KISIEL AND WITH THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS CONCERNING OUR INVITATION. HE WOULD LIKE VERY MUCH TO VISIT THE US THIS YEAR. HE SAID THE LAST TWO WEEKS OF AUGUST, THE ONLY PERIOD AVAILABLE DUE TO PREVIOUS TRAVEL AND OFFICIAL COMMITMENTS, WOULD BE THE BEST TIME FOR THE VISIT.

3. BIEN SAID, HOWEVER, HE COULD NOT ACCEPT AN IVP INVITATION. HE WOULD NEED AN OFFICIAL INVITATION, PREFERABLY FROM FEDERAL RESERVE CHAIRMAN MILLER. HE EXPLAINED THAT, UNDER POLISH PRACTICE, OFFICIALS OF MINISTERIAL RANK (BIEN ALSO HOLDS THE TITLE OF VICE MINISTER OF FINANCE) CAN TRAVEL OFFICIALLY ONLY ON GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT INVITATIONS. BIEN SAID THESE VISITS ARE USUALLY RECIPROCAL, AND HE WISHED TO EXTEND AN INVITATION TO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 WARSAW 02604 291800Z

CHAIRMAN MILLER TO VISIT POLAND. THE GOP WOULD BE GLAD TO RECEIVE THE CHAIRMAN EVEN BEFORE AUGUST, HE SAID, BUT WOULD UNDERSTAND IF HIS SCHEDULE DID NOT MAKE A RETURN TRIP POSSIBLE FOR SOME TIME. BIEN SAID THE GOP WOULD COVER ALL COSTS OF HIS TRIP TO THE US.

4. WE TOLD BIEN WE WOULD RECOMMEND TO WASHINGTON THAT

AN APPROPRIATE INVITATION BE ISSUED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. GIVEN THE RECENT CONFIRMATION OF CHAIRMAN MILLER AND THE PRESS OF BUSINESS FACING HIM, WE SAID WE COULD NOT PREDICT WHEN THE INVITATION MIGHT BE ISSUED OR WHETHER THE AUGUST DATES WOULD BE MUTUALLY CONVENIENT.

5. COMMENT: WE HOPE THAT AN EARLY INVITATION TO DR. BIEN CAN BE ARRANGED AND THAT THE AUGUST DATES CAN BE ACCEPTED. THE INVITATION WOULD IDEALLY BE ISSUED BY CHAIRMAN MILLER, BUT MIGHT ALSO BE ISSUED FROM THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT IN VIEW OF BIEN'S RANK OF VICE MINISTER. THE LATTER ALTERNATIVE IS NOT PREFERABLE, HOWEVER, SINCE IT MIGHT APPEAR TO BE PASSING OVER FIRST VICE MINISTER KRZAK, WITH WHOM THE EMBASSY WORKS VERY CLOSELY.

6. AN INVITATION TO BIEN AT THIS TIME IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT, SINCE HE HAS BEEN MENTIONED BY SEVERAL WELL-INFORMED SOURCES IN WARSAW AS THE LIKELY SUCCESSOR TO FINANCE MINISTER KISIEL, WHO MAY WELL RETIRE WITHIN THE NEXT YEAR DUE TO POOR HEALTH. BIEM HAS BEEN IN THE U.S. ON TNLV TWO PREVIOUS OCCASIONS FOR TWO DAYS EACH, THE FIRST AS PART OF THE POLISH DELEGATION TO THE SEPTEMBER, 1976, U.S.-POLISH TRADE COMMISSION MEETING AND THE SECOND AT A BANKING CONFERENCE IN OCTOBER, 1977.

7. ONE WELL-INFORMED U.S. BANKER HAS TOLD US THAT BIEN, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 WARSAW 02604 291800Z

UNLIKE MANY POLISH BANKERS, HAS NOT HAD EXTENSIVE EXPOSURE TO WESTERN BANKING PRINCIPLES AND OUTLOOK. ALTHOUGH BIEN ALSO HOLDS THE RANK OF PROFESSOR AND STILL LECTURES OCCASIONALLY AT WARSAW UNIVERSITY, MOST OF HIS EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN IN THE FINANCE MINISTRY. OUR SOURCE SAID BIEN'S CHIEF CHALLENGE, IF HE SHOULD ONE DAY HEAD THE MINISTRY, WOULD BE TO BROADEN HIS SCOPE. AT PRESENT HE IS PRIMARILY A TECHNICAIN WHO IMPLEMENTS POLICIES. AS MINISTER OF FINANCE HE WOULD HAVE TO BECOME A STRATEGIST AND FINANCIAL PLANNER. MORE DIRECT EXPOSURE TO U.S. MONETARY AND FINANCIAL THINKING WOULD THEREFORE BE HELPFUL.

8. THE DEPARTMENT OR TREASURY MAY, OF COURSE, WISH TO HOLD CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER POLISH FINANCIAL OFFICIALS, INCLUDING KISIEL OR KRZAK, IN CONNECTION WITH POLISH CCC CREDIT REQUESTS OR OTHER MATTERS. WHEREAS BIEN COULD SPEAK TO SOME OF THESE ISSUES, WE SHOULD MAKE CLEAR THAT HIS INVITATION WOULD BE TO INCREASE HIS GENERAL FAMILIARITY WITH THE U.S. AND NOT TO RESOLVE SPECIFIC OUTSTANDING FINANCIAL QUESTIONS. END COMMENT.

9. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE LET US KNOW WHETHER AND
WHEN CHAIRMAN MILLER MAY BE ABLE TO EXTEND AN INVITATION
TO DR. BIEN.
SCHAUFELLE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT, VISITS, BANKERS, INVITATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978WARSAW02604
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780137-0858
Format: TEL
From: WARSAW
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780311/aaaaaizu.tel
Line Count: 120
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e49524b9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3126829
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROPOSED INVITATION TO NATIONAL BANK PRESIDENT BIEN
TAGS: EFIN, SCUL, OVIP, (BIEN, WITOLD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e49524b9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014